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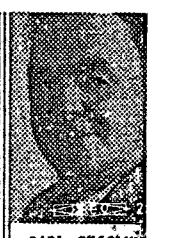
CARL SKOGLUN

ALFRED RUSSEL

OSCAR SHOENFE

FREE THE 18

LEADERS OF MINNEAPOLIS TRUCKDRIVERS LOCAL 544-CIO AND OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

NOW BEHIND PRISON BARS

SENTENCED UNDER THE ANTI-LABOR

SMITH "GAG" ACT

KARL KUEHN

CARLOS HUDSO

EMIL HANSEN

CLARENCE HAM

EDWARD PALMQUIST

HARRY DEBOE

JAKE COOPER

MAX GELDMA

FREE SPEECH AND LABOR'S RIGHTS

A RADIO ADDRESS OVER STATION WEVD

by James T. Farrell

NOTED NOVELIST and AUTHOR of Studs Lonigan, My Days Of Anger, etc.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE • 160 Fifth Ave. • New York

JAMES T. FARRELL, *CHAIRMAN* • JOHN DOS PASSOS, *VICE-CHAIRMAN* • GEORGE NOVACK, *SECRETARY*

REGent 7345

Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America

LOCAL No. 42

Affiliated with the
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

2701 E. ALLEGHENY AVE., PHILA. 34, PA.

March 3, 1944

Civil Rights Defense Committee,
Mr. Joseph Gorelik
4032 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gorelik:

If we are to preserve the democratic rights and liberties which has been the American custom gained through the Bill of Rights and for which millions of Americans are fighting in every corner of the world, we must necessarily be continuously on guard against any infractions of the cherished right of freedom of speech.

Therefore, I Consider it my duty as a responsible union leader and an American citizen to strongly protest the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the eighteen members of the Minneapolis truck drivers union and the Court's refusal to consider their appeal. To allow convictions such as these to stand establishes a dangerous precedent and disfranchises American workers of their constitutional rights of freedom of speech.

I personally do not subcribe to the philosophy or political beliefs of the eighteen persons convicted under the Smith Gag Act, but I do insist that no American should be penalized for expressing his thoughts or beliefs. Furthermore, I cannot conceive any decent American who would not rebel at the conviction of anyone under a law which would have made criminals of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert B. Moyer

Herbert B. Moyer,
Executive Secretary

Telegram of Endorsement - Feb. 14, 1944

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION YOU SUPPLIED CONCERNING THE MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE. THE FACT THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY REFUSED TO REVIEW A TEST CASE UNDER A LAW INVOLVING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT. I AGREE THAT THE IDEAS AND OPINIONS OF THE EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE MINNEAPOLIS TEAMSTERS UNION IS NOT THE ISSUE IN THIS CASE. THE WHOLE ISSUE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH. A FAMOUS MAN ONCE SAID: " I MAY NOT AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY BUT I WILL DEFEND WITH MY LIFE YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT." THEREFORE I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE YOUR CAMPAIGN AS A PROGRESSIVE TRADE UNION LEADER AGAINST THE INFRINGEMENT OF OUR BASIC RIGHTS. FRATERNALLY YOURS.

WILLIAM F. SCHAFFER, PRESIDENT
LOCAL 42, IUMSWA-CIO

PHONE ORCHARD 4-3400

The WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

Arbeiter Ring

GENERAL OFFICE
175 EAST BROADWAY
New York, N.Y.

March 7,1944

To The Branches of the Workmen's Circle,

Dear Friends:

At a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Workmen's Circle, held on February 6th,1944, it was decided to endorse the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, which has undertaken to provide defense and relief for the eighteen Minneapolis union and socialist leaders and their families.The work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee is essential for political and civil liberty.

We appeal to the Branches of the Workmen's Circle to give their moral and every financial support to the efforts of the above mentioned committee.

Fraternally yours,

National Executive Committee Workmen's Circle,

J. Baskin,

General Secretary.

af-oe
23076

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 Fifth Ave. N.Y.10, N.Y.

Read

March 7, 1944

I M P O R T A N T !

TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES

Dear Friends:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL TOUR
by George Novack, Natn'l. Sec.

A national tour of all cities in which Local Committees are functioning will be made by George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. This tour will begin on Thursday, March 16th at Rochester, N.Y. and will conclude on Monday, June 26th at Quakertown, Pa. The full schedule of the tour is attached.

Local Committees should begin preparing now for the dates on which the National Secretary will be in your city. Wherever possible a large public affair should be arranged; a luncheon, dinner, mass meeting, etc. In small cities and towns a Committee meeting should be called, if a larger affair is not feasible.

Special communications will be sent to each Local Committee just before Mr. Novack arrives. In the meantime please send us a report of what activities you are planning as soon as you have worked out your plans.

Fraternally yours,

Evelyn Anderson

Acting Secretary

National CIO War Relief Committee

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Assistant Director

ROBERT PARKER, Director
Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Area
121 North Broad Street
Philadelphia 7, Pa.
Phone: RITtenhouse [illegible] 1836

March 8, 1944

Mr. James T. Farrell, Chairman,
Civil Rights Defense Committee,
160 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Farrell:

I have always felt that the defense of civil liberties in the United States must be a prime concern of all who are interested in a democratic nation. The Smith "Gag" Act of 1940 is, in my opinion, a direct violation of these liberties and all possible steps should be taken to have it declared unconstitutional.

It is for this reason that I am especially interested in the case of the eighteen defendants convicted in Minneapolis under this act. The refusal of the Supreme Court to hear an appeal from this conviction and the imprisonment of the defendants must be protested.

I am glad to add my personal support to the committee in its endeavor to seek a reversal of the conviction and a hearing before the Supreme Court to test the validity of the act. I shall be glad to do whatever I can to help further knowledge and information concerning this case.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Parker

Robert Parker
Area Director

rp/sil
uopwa 2

One Hour's Pay Each Month . . . . . Give Once For All!

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409 HOFMANN BUILDING
DETROIT 1, MICHIGAN
CADILLAC 8538

[1944, March 27]

NATIONAL CIO
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
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R. J. THOMAS, SECRETARY
VAN A. BITTNER
SHERMAN DALRYMPLE
ALBERT J. FITZGERALD
DAVID McDONALD

AUGUST SCHOLLE
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

March 27th, 1944

Mr. James T. Farrell, Chairman
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Farrell:

It is my considered judgment that the unreviewed conviction in the Federal Court at Minneapolis of eighteen labor unionists stands as one of the gravest present challenges to the continued efficacy of the Bill of Rights. My attitude in the matter has nothing to do with the ideology of the defendants; it goes to the larger question of what the guarantees of free speech and free press mean in the Constitution. And largest of all looms the proposition that the law now covers what a man may think. This latter proposition places the citizen completely under the domination of the judiciary, astounding as that point of view may seem.

I believe that this case is most definitely one in which the Supreme Court of the United States should have issued a writ of certiorari and rendered a decision on the constitutional point involved. Its failure to do so establishes a precedent that stands from now on as a threat to freedom of expression and freedom of thought. The fear that a constitutional guarantee might not be enforceable is just as much a restriction of liberty as the complete absence of the guarantee itself.

You may use my name in support of any appeal made to the President of the United States for full and unconditional pardons for these eighteen persons. That seems to be the only remedy remaining. That those charged and convicted may be guilty has nothing to do with the real proposition. What has a great deal to do with it is American adherence to the old common law principle: "Better that ninety-nine guilty escape, rather than one innocent person be convicted." These eighteen persons have been denied their full day in court.

Sincerely yours,

August Scholle

August Scholle
Regional Director

AS:mm
angoio
#22

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK LEAGUE

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March 30, 1944

Mr. George Novak
National Secretary
Civil Rights Defense Committee
Room 607
160 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Novak:

After studying the case of the 18 Minneapolis prisoners convicted for alleged sedition, and following my attending your meeting on last Sunday evening in the Allerton hotel, I am thoroughly convinced that the men and women involved are not only entitled to, but should have a thorough, unbiased, rehearing in this case.

Frankly, I do not believe that based upon the facts as have been presented, that there ever should have been any indictment against these unfortunate persons. If the case against these persons is allowed to go uncontested, it will not be long before every group in America will eventually suffer a similar fate on practically any trumped up charges, by groups whom we may oppose or disagree with.

You may depend upon me to assist in every way possible to seek the release of the Minneapolis prisoners.

Yours truly,

John O. Holly, President
The Future Outlook League, Inc.

JOH*ET

Morris

From George - March 30.

The Toledo public meeting this Thursday night was equally encouraging, considering that this, too, was their first public effort. From Rochester to Detroit, almost every city has complained that, if only they had been given more time to prepare, they could have doubled the attendance.

About 80 were present at the new headquarters of the Toledo CRDC in the Roi Davis Bldg. Newly-painted, newly furnished and very attractive meeting place, centrally located. Mostly auto workers and railroad workers - in fact all were one or the other. They listened attentively, asked questions, bought literature to distribute among their friends and contributed about $18.

[illegible]

[illegible]

We discussed possibilities of trade union work. The key union is Local # 12, UAW-CIO and it is touch and go there - but there is a possibility that we can crack it. There are several other CIO locals, shipbuilders, steel, etc. where we have contacts among the leadership and these will be nergetically exploited in the next few weeks. Also Workmen's Circle and possibly, if feasible, the Toledo Area Railroad Council.

No matter how much results are visible immediately, you can be sure that the CRDC work will be pushed from now on very vigorously in Toledo. All the ground work has been laid.

I read Al's and your remarks about petition signatures. One of the difficulties is that the local com. are all just beginning their trade union contacts and individual contribution work - and cannot xxx spare the forces in many places for petition gathering at this stage. However, with your letter and my urging, I think we can speed up the petition drive so that we reach the 10,000 by July. You will get signatures from Cleveland now, and last night here in Detroit, they agreed to get 1000 by July. However, here too, they cannot work at once upon the task but must postpone it for a month or so until they get other aspects of their work rolling. I suggest that you keep hammering away on this task from N.Y. and send out a scoreboard every 3 weeks or so ; so that the laggards can be spurred into action.

In all cities I heard only high praise for the new pamphlet and for the copious CRDC material as a whole. The Phila. offset is excellent. You're getting to be an A-1 publicity gal. You will receive two letters from Detroit, one from Gibson. I suggest that you just cut out the sig. in the K.P' letter if you have it and transfer it by pasting on this copy and then have it offset. Have these offset fast and shoot a quantity to Detroit - they are important.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

AFFILIATE OF THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

15 UNION SQUARE NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

ALGONQUIN 4-7885

OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL SEC'Y-TREASURER

April 5, 1944

Mr. George Novack, Secretary
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160--5th Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Brother Novack:

Your letter dated February 18th, addressed to Executive Vice-President George Baldanzi, was referred to the meeting of our National Executive Council on March 13th-14th, with the result that they voted to contribute $100.00 to be turned over to your Committee for relief of the families of the 18 defendants in the Minneapolis case.

You will find our check herewith enclosed.

Fraternally yours,

William Pollock
General Secretary-Treasurer

Enclosure

April 26, 1944

Miss Evelyn Anderson
Room 707
160 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Anderson:

We went to see the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters about passing a resolution on the case.

I spoke to Brother Dellems, International Representative down from Oakland. He told me that the rule was not to take action in questions of this kind without recommendation from Randolph and the executive board. He advised that we communicate directly with the Pullman Porters' national leadership.

The president of the Los Angeles local was, however willing to help as an individual.

We will send you petitions very shortly, and will also let you know as soon as we have accomodations for Mr. Kovack.

Fraternally Yours,

Daniel Zaitlowsky,
Assistant Secretary

April 20, 1944

Dear Evelyn:

I had a talk with the heads of Local #9 of the IUMSWA, the union that John Green heads. Both Brothers Winstead and Pollard, who are at the head of the local administration are men sent out by Green. It was Winstead, I talked to.

They refuse to ~~xx~~ recommend to the local that it endorse our campaign, although Local #9 was one of the earliest endorsers of the case in this area.

The reason Winstead gave me were as follows:

1) Factionalism in the union would thereby be aroused.

2) The CRDC is a Trotskyist Front organization, and is the wrong organization to support in order to fight the Smith Act!

Pollard came in during my talk with Winstead and endorsed the latter's line.

Winstead claimed that John Green's action was an individual action and not binding on the union. He added, however, that if Green sends out a letter to all locals urging endorsement of the case, then Winstead and Pollard would recommend that the local support our campaign.

Is there any possibility of our approaching John Green about a letter to Local #9, recommending endorsement of the CRDC?

Fraternally,

Daniel Zhitlovsky

Dear E: (Apr. 18)

The story above will tell you about my Jamestown visit which has been very educational for me. This farm cooperative movement is important and has been growing greatly in power these past few years - and bears greater study and attention from us.

I must add an amusing footnote. After my talk last night a white-haired weather-worn farmer came up and congratulated me on my speech. He introduced himself as an ex-member of the North Dakota Legislature. "You ought to be in the House of Representatives or the Senate", he remarked. "We need men like you. We're so busy working in the fields we don't get a chance to follow and study these things that Big Business is doing. You're a fine speaker. You explain things so simply that anyone can understand them."

Perhaps I ought to settle down out here in the plains as a way-station to Washington. In any event, you can see that the farther I get from home the greater appreciation I get.

ER! Don't bury this story; it requires a little more than routine handling since it signifies that we are penetrating hitherto untouched organizations - and it is also important here for the Northwest movement.

At last - a sunshiny spring day. I feel very well, not wearied. It must be the tonic effect of the tour's achievements. On to Seattle...

Note:
Place on CRDC mailing list

Harold V. Knight, Editor, North Dakota Union Farmer,
411 Second St. S. W.,
Jamestown, North Dakota.

Also have the Mil. write for an exchange with his paper.

ER Initials

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

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JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

May 2, 1944

Mr. Daniel Zhitlowsky
247 Douglas Building
257 South Spring Street
Los Angeles 12, Calif.

Dear Friend:

Yesterday we sent you a package with 50 numbered collection lists and some Michigan CIO offsets.

I'm greatly puzzled by the action of Local #84, ILGWU in writing to Local #10. Unfortunately we do not yet have an endorsement from Local #10, although we've approached them and hope to get one. Was it someone from the CRDC who told Local #84 that we had an endorsement from Local #10, or was there some item in the union paper which made them think so. Under the circumstances, as you can see, we are in no position to put pressure on Local #10 to write to #84, since they have not even answered our appeal yet. The picture in the ILGWU is this: a number of locals in NY have been contacted and they are stalling until the International takes a position. Several of the local officials though have promised to take up the matter with Dubinsky. The Executive Board of the ILGWU is meeting this week and the case is supposed to be taken up then. Of course, we are not sure of the outcome but we will let you know as soon as we have any information. In addition, I Nagler, manager of Local #10 has promised our representative that even if Dubinsky does not take favorable action, his local will endorse the case. Our New York Committee is only going to wait a short while longer to see if any of these promises materialize and regardless of the outcome will then proceed to visit all the ILGWU locals here. You will have to decide on the basis of your local situation in the ILGWU whether to wait awhile or to proceed at once. Offhand I would say that you should wait until hearing from us.

With reference to the Pullman Porters, our representative contacted them once and was told that due to the dependence of the union on the teamsters it was not likely that they would endorse the case. However, she was told to come back and see Randolph when he gets back, which she will do shortly. We will let you know the results of the visit.

Fraternally yours,

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

May 7, 1944

Freda Charles
Room 707
160 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Friend:

Local #84 took its action after I spoke to the executive board. I told them that #10 had endorsed the case sometime since 1941. The basis for the statement was the list of unions who supported the case since its inception given at the back of WHO ARE THE 18 PRISONERS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS CASE? under Int. Ladies Garment Workers Union there is given the Joint Board of Dress and Waistmakers Union of Greater New York -- Locals #10, #22, #60, #89. I showed this to the business agent of #84 before I spoke to the executive board.

In aletter to the Cloakmakers Joint Board of Los Angeles, I wrote:

" In its two year history, the Minneapolis Labor case has received the support from such I.L.G.W.U. bodies as the Joint Board Dressmakers Board of Greater New York -- including Local #10 -- and the Baltimore Joint Board."

The L.A. Cloakmakers Joint Board took the same action as #89 on my letter and the resolution. They voted to get confirmation from New York before proceeding.

I must have been misled by the inclusion of Local #10 under the Joint Board in the pamphlet into believing that #10 had given independent support. If this is not correct, then we should immediately explain my error to the local here. Perhaps a letter from you to local #84 stating that I had made an error, and stating that the Joint Board that included Local #10, but not Local #10 itself had endorsed the case in the past, would be in order.

Fraternally,

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, N.Y.

January 17, 1945

TO ALL LOCALS AND BRANCHES:

Dear Comrades,

Our twelve comrades are to be released January 24th. On their release they will be greeted at several meetings, to be held under the auspices of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. We are listing these below so that all branches and comrades who wish to send messages of greeting will know where to address them:

Minneapolis: Sunday, January 28. Banquet at Labor Lyceum. Send messages to: L. Lynn, 10 South 4th Street, Minneapolis 1, Minnesota.

Chicago: Thursday, January 25. Meeting at Ashland Auditorium. Send messages to: M. Bartell, 160 N. Wells Street, Room 317, Chicago 6, Illinois.

New York: Friday, February 2. Meeting at Hotel Diplomat. Send messages to: National Office, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Fraternally yours,

M. Stein

Acting National Secretary

MS/sc

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PASS P 6

116

P32

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MAYNARD C. KRUEGER
5317 ~~6630~~ UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

13-

George Novack, Secy
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Sir:

The same considerations which lead James Farrell to resign as Chairman of the Committee lead me to resign from the Committee proper.

Please take this letter as a formal withdrawal from the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Maynard C. Krueger

Nov. 17, 1945

THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
2929 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

April 8, 1949

RECEIVED
APR 9 1949

Socialist Workers Party
116 University Place
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

I would very much appreciate knowing the status of the men who were imprisoned somewhere in the Midwest during the war under the Smith Act. Are they still in prison? If not, are they asking a pardon?

Would you also please inform me what the accusations were against them.

Sincerely,

John M. Swomley, Jr.

JMS:mlc

April 14, 1949

Mr. John H. Swomley, Jr.
The Fellowship of Reconciliation
2929 Broadway
New York 25, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Swomley:

In reply to your letter of April 8, the 18 members of the Socialist Workers Party were convicted under the Smith Act in December 1941. The case was appealed to the higher courts, but the Supreme Court refused to hear our appeal and we were sent to prison on December 31, 1943, to serve sentences of one year and a day and twelve to serve sentences of sixteen months. All were released by February 1945. We have been carrying on a campaign ever since to secure a Presidential Pardon in order to reinstate to the 18 the civil rights they have lost as a result of the conviction.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, whose Secretary, George Novack, may be reached at 19 West 10th Street, New York, N.Y., can provide you with further information on this question.

I am enclosing a few pieces of literature in connection with our trial and conviction, which will help to fill in the details for you.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in this case.

Yours very truly,

Farrell Dobbs
National Chairman

FD:ra
Enc.

October 6, 1949

Editor of Annual Report
American Civil Liberties Union
170 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

I wish to call your attention to an error in your 29th Annual Report concerning the dates of the trial and conviction of 18 Socialist Workers Party members under the Smith Act.

Your report at Line 9, Page 42, and again at Line 15, Page 60, sets 1943 as the date of the trial. The following is the correct sequence of dates:

The 18 Socialist Workers Party members were indicted on July 15, 1941. They went to trial on October 27, 1941. The jury brought in its verdict on December 1, 1941, and the defendants were sentenced on December 8, 1941.

In addition to the consideration of historical accuracy, there is an important political reason why your inadvertent error in dates should be corrected. The Communist Party supported the government against the Socialist Workers Party members when they were on trial under the Smith Act and today the CP refuses to support the appeal of the convicted Socialist Workers Party members for a Presidential Pardon to restore their civil rights. As one of the excuses for their utterly indefensible policy, the Stalinists have repeatedly alleged that the Socialist Workers Party members were tried and convicted during wartime.

We contend that attempts to suppress freedom of speech are no less unconstitutional in wartime than in peacetime, but we nevertheless desire to prevent the Stalinists from misrepresenting the actual facts of our case to serve their own unprincipled aims. To refute this Stalinist lie, it is important that the dates of the trial be accurately reported, especially in a publication so widely read as your Annual Report.

I do not mean to imply that anything more than an honest mistake is involved in your inaccurate reporting of the trial dates and I am sure you will do whatever you can to make the necessary correction.

Sincerely yours,

Farrell Dobbs
National Chairman

FD:ra

New York, N.Y.
May 18, 1950

Dear Jim:

I saw Hogan on another matter yesterday and discussed with him the disability connected with the status of the 18. He said, among other things, that the question of passports in general is entirely a matter for the discretion of the authorities and in particular, that a felon is not legally prohibited from obtaining one. Naturally, the authorities would take into consideration the purposes of a passport request, but he believes that a request for a pleasure trip would receive consideration.

He also stated that if the 18 did not wish to sign formal application for pardon, in view of the "Yellow Dog" agreement connected with it, it is possible for the ACLU to file a request on their behalf. He recalls that this procedure was followed in the case of the IWW prisoners.

I am sending you a copy of the Plenum proceedings in French. It will be translated later, but I thought you would like to have this copy immediately.

Fraternally,

Enc.

Eugene F. Ward

THE SAGA OF A SWEDE

More than three decades ago
A ship docked at our land.
And from her hold
Our hero bold
With tin trunk holding all his gold
His fortune in his hand.

The bosses needed men like him
To build their fortunes grand.
With strength to hew
With guts to stew
In summer's heat, and blizzard blue
To answer each demand.

The north woods knew his mighty blows
The railroads felt his hand
Where'er the need there was for brawn
The dollar slave, the bosses pawn
Nightfall stopping, start at dawn,
The pattern of our land.

But Carl brought something here with him
The customs could not find.
He smuggled in the love of man.
A courage in him that could stand
The blows of the employers band.
Karl Marx was in his mind.

He fought the fight that all must fight
Who love man's right to live.
With his efforts unions grew.
The workers rallied to his view.
All knew Carl was true and blue,
He gave all she can give.

He's known the bludgeoning of fate
But danger held no dread.
He heard the jail doors sullen clang
And marched with prison labor gang.
With each reverse his spirit sang
The song of men he'd freed.

And now the bosses chart a course
That points across the sea.
"Go home," they say
"We've had our day,
You're a menace to our way
Of peaceful piracy."

We'll never let him send him back
Or start him on his way.
Join the fight
With all your might
Away with darkness, welcome light.
Carl Skoglund's here to stay.

Miles E. Dunne, Chairman
Minnesota Section,
Civil Rights Defense Committee

October 6, 1949

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dewey Albinson
George Baldanzi
Prof. Joseph Warren Beach
William Rose Benet
Warren K. Billings
Alice Stone Blackwell
Theodore Brameld
John Chamberlain
Sarah T. Colvin
Kenneth G. Crawford
Elloues Day
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Dr. Willard Uphaus
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Frances Winwar
A. L. Wirin
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

July 25, 1944.

Dear Daniel Zhitlowsky:

In reply to a telegram from Kelly, we have today forwarded by railway express prepaid the 4,000 Farrell leaflets he requested.

I am writing to you because I am very anxious to learn to what use you are putting these leaflets. Are they for distribution in general, or for a specific purpose? Are they to be used in a mailing?

The reason I ask is because if they are for a mailing, only the leaflet would do. But for distribution purposes we would have been glad to send you half that number in pamphlets, free of charge. We are always glad to distribute these in the best channels, as they are our best piece of publicity.

In any case - and I am sure you had good reasons for requesting the leaflets - I would very much appreciate a report from you on how they are being used - and later on, what results you are getting from them.

With kind regards,

Fraternally yours,

Evelyn Anderson
Acting Secretary

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JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

July 26, 1944.

Dear Daniel:

Yesterday, through an error, a letter was sent to you which was intended for our correspondent in Seattle. It concerns the sending of a large number of leaflets to Seattle.

You may destroy this letter, as I am today sending a similar letter to the correct address.

Thanking you,

Fraternally yours,

Evelyn Anderson
Acting Secretary

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JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

August 25, 1944

TO ALL ILGWU LOCALS

Dear Friends:

The Boston Convention of the ILGWU in June passed a resolution protesting against the unjust imprisonment of the 18 union and Socialist Workers Party leaders under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act. As you will see by the enclosed reprint of the proceedings, the resolution declares:

"The records of the case abundantly show that they were condemned simply and solely for the expression of opinion, no overt act of any sort being charged against them...We are deeply convinced that these convictions challenge the best traditions of civil liberty under the Constitution."

Ever since the 18 went to prison the CRDC has provided relief for their wives and children. Without this aid the families of these persecuted labor leaders would suffer great hardships and privations. Today, with the high cost of living, the problem of feeding and clothing their unfortunate ones becomes an ever-increasing problem for the Committee.

Your International, true to its tradition as a defender of justice and civil liberties, has endorsed our work by protesting this grave injustice against labor leaders.

May we urge your local to join the hundreds of unions throughout the country which have already registered their protests against these convictions and which have sent us contributions to help us provide relief for the prisoners and their families. A generous contribution from you would greatly help these victimized trade unionists and socialist labor leaders.

Please send your contribution to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.10,N.Y.

Fraternally yours,

Secretary

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

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Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

August 4, 1944

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

May we call your attention to the enclosed reprints of letters from R. J. Thomas, International President and William S. Hilger, Asst. Regional Director of Region 9 of the UAW-CIO, protesting against the imprisonment of 18 Minneapolis Truckdriver Local 544-CIO and Socialist Workers Party leaders, convicted under the vicious Smith "Gag" Act.

"These people should be supported for two reasons", declares Brother Thomas, "first, the National CIO takes that position and second, they were undoubtedly sent to prison under a law with which we cannot possibly agree...the case involves a serious threat to labor." And Brother Hilger states: "I believe that the principle of free speech guaranteed by our Constitution has been violated in the conviction of these men."

Our Committee is conducting a national campaign to free the 18 and repeal the anti-labor Smith "Gag" Act under which they were the first to be sentenced. We have in addition the heavy burden of expense in providing relief for the 18 prisoners, their wives and children. In some of the families there are babies and children of school age who need food, clothing and medical care. Without our help they will suffer great hardships and privations.

Over 50 locals of the progressive UAW-CIO have already come to the aid of these 18 victimized labor leaders. Will your local union join them in helping us to free the 18, to repeal the Smith Act and to provide relief for the prisoners and their families. A generous donation from your union would greatly help us in our fight to preserve civil liberties and labor's democratic rights.

Please send your contribution to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

Fraternally yours,

Secretary

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

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JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

May 10, 1944

Daniel Zhitlowsky
247 Douglas Building
257 South Spring St.
Los Angeles 12, Cal.

Dear Friend:

Your letter clarifies completely the question of Local 84's letter to Local 10. You were correct in stating that Local #10 had supported the case in 1941, as part of the action taken by the N.Y. Joint Board of Dressmakers. Because I had written so recently to Local #10 itself, I immediately connected your statement with the present and it did not occur to me that you were speaking of the past.

I think it is better to let the matter rest where it is and not write to Local #84. If they raise the question with you, you can make the necessary explanation. I am afraid it would only confuse them to tell them that Local #10 did not take independent action. Local #10 will probably reply to Local #84's letter and when you go back to the local you can then make the explanation, provided Local #10 advised them unfavorably. It might turn out that Local 84's inquiry might stimulate Local #10 into action and then the we would have a satisfactory situation all around.

Fraternally yours,

Freda Charles

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

[1942, Jan 21]

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL

DR. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.
COUNCILMAN, BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
132 WEST 138TH STREET
NEW YORK

January
21
1942

Mr. George Novack
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mr. Novack:

I am taking this opportunity of endorsing the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee in reference to the members of the Socialist Workers Party in Minneapolis.

It has always been important, but in this hour of democracy's crisis, it is doubly important that undemocratic leaders are not allowed to pervert justice to their own ends. Whether we agree or disagree on basic philosophies of life, or whether we be black or white, Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic--we are Americans all. Whenever the Civil Liberties of any one American or any one American group are threatened, then the Civil Liberties of all are in danger, and this is the issue in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

acp;lvo

ABOUT THE NEW PAMPHLETS

The pamphlet is our basic piece of literature. It gives all the facts in the case and personalizes the 18 prisoners. It should be used most extensively; in distributions, mailings, and should always be on sale. The National Office has sent pamphlets in mailings to the following lists to date:

Individual contributors
Trade union contributors
Miscellaneous trade unions
All of UAW-CIO locals in the country
Organizations
Press - trade union, liberal, Negro, general
State Representatives, ACLU
Bill of Rights Committee, American Bar Assn.
National Committee CRDC
Pledgees
Families of prisoners
Miscellaneous mailings every day

Three Local Committees have ordered more than their initial bundles. These are:
New York - 5,000
Twin Cities - 1,000
Detroit - 1,000

Local Committees can sell pamphlets at places where signatures on petitions are gathered. If Local Committees have special avenues for distribution, and people to carry out these distributions, special payment terms can be arranged with the National Office.

ABOUT THE POSTERS

We have mailed a number of posters to each Local Committee and would like reports on how they are being used. We can supply more of these posters wherever they are needed.

The National Office is mailing a poster to every one of our trade union contributors. In our mailing to the list of UAW-CIO locals, we have informed them that upon request we will send them a poster free of charge.

--------oOo--------

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

In the past three months we have received contributions from the following trade unions and organizations:

UAW-CIO, Local 647, Reading, Ohio
UAW-CIO, Local 203, Detroit, Mich.
UAW-CIO, Local 578, Oshkosh, Wisc.
UAW-CIO, Local 230, Maywood, Calif.
SWOC Local 1339, Jersey City, N.J.
SWOC Local 2715, Reading, Pa.
SWOC Local 2058, Maywood, Calif.
Jacquard & Novelty Workers Local 87, Paterson, N.J.
Amalgamated Clothing Workers Local 198, Passaic, N.J.
Amalgamated Clothing Workers Local 169, New York
United Packinghouse Local 15, Kansas City, Kans.
Worcester Industrial Union Council, Worcester, Mass.

Baltimore Joint Board, AFL, Baltimore, Md.
Brewers Local 205, Minneapolis Minn.
Brewers Local 4, Buffalo, N.Y.
Brewers Local 18, Chicago, Ill.
Brewers Local 2, Newark, N.J.
ILGWU, Local 66, New York
ILGWU, Local 155, New York
ILGWU, Local 160, Bayonne, N.J.
Millinery Workers Local 24, N.Y.
Painters & Decorators Local 1309, Reading, Pa.
Amal. Lithographers of Am., Women's Aux., N.Y.

Church of the People, Seattle, Wash.
Farmers Educational & Cooperative Union, Great Falls, Mont.
Workers Party, Reading, Pa.

Workmen's Circle Contributors

Branch 39, New York City
Branch 43, New York City
Branch 62, Passaic, N.J.
Branch 87-B, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Branch 88, New York City
Branch 95, Perth Amboy, N.J.
Branch 111, Detroit, Mich.
Branch 140, Paterson, N.J.
Branch 179, Cincinnati, O.
Branch 184, Hartford, Conn.
Branch 198, Hoboken, N.J.
Branch 261, Bronx, N.Y.
Branch 277, Bronx, N.Y.
Branch 294, Bronx, N.Y.
Branch 297, New York City
Branch 485, Toronto, Can.
Branch 493, New Haven, Conn.
Branch 461, Linden, N.J.
Branch 581, New York City
Branch 559, Cleveland, O.
Branch 760, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Branch 818, New Haven, Conn.
Branch 664, Sioux City, Ia.

Local Committees should concentrate, in the next period, upon obtaining contributions from trade unions and organizations. This is one of the most important tasks of our Committees.

Fund-Raising Through Pledges

Although many Local Committees prefer to handle their own pledge cards, some Committees have sent these cards to the National Office. We send out reminders where necessary, and acknowledge each payment with a Thank You letter. To date we have received the following:

New York --	7	pledgees	amounting to	$36.00	per month
San Francisco--	11	"	"	45.00	" "
Milwaukee --	1	"	"	1.00	" "
Sacramento --	1	"	"	1.00	" "
Washington,D.C.-	1	"	"	1.00	" "
Detroit --	1	"	"	20.00	" "
Total --				$104.00	

Where Local Committees handle their own pledgees, it is important to send a reminder letter when necessary, and to acknowledge each payment with receipt and letter of thanks.

Dollar-A-Month Clubs

Several Local Committees are instituting these Dollar-A-Month Clubs. This is suitable wherever Local Committee representatives are contacting numbers of workers and other individuals who cannot be expected to contribute or pledge larger amounts. For the present, however, the National Office will continue to seek out individuals with goodly incomes to pledge larger sums on our pledge cards.

Local Dollar-A-Month Clubs can be useful also as an aid in enlarging and expending the membership of Local Committees. We would like a report from each Local Committee which institutes such a Club.

Fund-Raising Through Collection Lists

A number of individuals in several Local Committees find our Collection Lists very useful in raising funds.

In New York seven individuals have raised $105.00, with one person securing over $60 of this.

We quote from a recent letter from Twin-Cities:
"Enclosed is $30 collected by P.G.H. on Collection List 361. He swears by the Collection List and you can see why! He collected $30 a few weeks ago also on a Collection List, making $60 in all. And he's still going!"

Seattle has sent in $15 from a Collection List.

--------oOo--------

SOCIALS FOR FUN AND FUND-RAISING

This is one of the very best ways in which to raise funds for the CRDC. It has the added advantage of acquainting new people with our representatives and our work, and can be utilized to enlarge Local Committees.

Whenever we receive detailed reports on large and successful affairs from one Local Committee, we pass the information on to the other Committees, and these ideas and suggestions are often utilized by others with good success. For example, the Rummage Sale, originated by Chicago last year, was recently taken up by Twin Cities with outstanding success. They netted $300 at this affair, and wrote:

"It was a wonderful experience for all of us. None of us knew anything at all about Rummage Sales - this was all new and everything we learned was through the experience of doing it. We assembled a huge amount of Rummage - everything from dishes, clothes, etc. to a very fine ultra-violet sun lamp.

"We were well organized. We had a sales force set up (all of them completely new at selling) and even a door man, who kept the door of the store closed, letting in only as many people at a time that we thought we could handle. Rummage sales are very popular. People buy things there that they may not be able to find elsewhere and at very low prices.

"We are planning to have another sale in early October, and have already asked people to save their Rummage for us."

In both Chicago and Twin Cities, the Rummage Sale was held in a store rented for the occasion, in a workers' neighborhood. Large painted signs were pasted on the windows advertising the sale.

New York is planning a Rummage Sale in the middle of May.

Los Angeles held a Leap-Year Dance which netted $100. They wrote:

"Our dance was the most successful we've had in some time. About 95 to 100 persons were present. We used the Leap-Year theme; decorations were attractive and clever, with posters and gags on the 'Manpower Shortage'. Entertainment consisted of group dancing led by a professional. We had a 'Pin-Up Boy' contest in which candidates went around collecting votes at 5¢ each. The one with the most votes (money) was labelled 'Pin-Up Boy of 1944'.

"The crowd was in the spirit of the thing -

especially since the master-of ceremonies made it clear that the money was going to a very good cause - and he gave a brief talk on the Minneapolis Case. When the returns were in, two men were so close that the M.C. conducted bidding right then and there, taking further votes from the crowd. This pushed up the revenue from this contest alone to $56.33!

"Among the decorations were a huge sign "Free the 18" across the front of the hall and a few of the posters which you sent us. A petition was signed at the door."

We have already written the Local Committees about the excellent Social season of the New York Committee in the past three months. A number of socials, house-parties, and a Musicale at Carnegie Hall brought in a total of over $700. They are planning to hold one large affair every month, with a Supper Party scheduled for April 15.

Movies for Socials

We are now investigating the possibilities of Local Committees securing educational, civil liberties, and amusing films for socials. We will try to secure the names of depositories in the local cities, to save the expense of mailing to and from New York.

We have in the National Office the film that was taken during the Minneapolis Trials, together with Script. This can be obtained at any time by writing to us for it.

Autographed Books for Socials

We have written to 16 members of our National Committee who are authors, asking them to send us one of their books autographed. We will let the Local Committees know when we have secured these, and they can be utilized by the Committees at their socials for auction purposes.

In the meantime Local Committees can secure any or all of James T. Farrell's books which we will get autographed and send to the Committee. These have been very successfully used in the past for auction purposes. Write to us for the book you want autographed.

It is good policy to always have something to sell or auction at every social; autographed books, pictures, grab-bags, etc.

At every social a table should be reserved for the display and distribution of CRDC literature. A petition should be available for signatures.

---------oOo---------

PETITION CAMPAIGN

In the past three months signatures on petitions have been secured from the following Local Committees.

Boston	200
Buffalo	200
Chicago	130
Los Angeles	33
Milwaukee	33
Newark	350
New York	1,500
Philadelphia	25
San Francisco	99
Seattle	100

Many partially signed petitions are still in the hands of Local Committees, but all fully signed petitions should be sent promptly to the National Office.

A full scale drive has now been launched to secure the 7,000 signatures needed to make up 10,000 by July 1st. Soon after that date the National Office will make the Pardon Presention to Washington, and the 10,000 signatures will form a vital part of this presentation.

The best way to secure signatures is to cover all union meetings, open forum meetings and any other affairs where numbers of people gather. Wherever possible dates of such meetings should be secured in advance, and assignments to cover them made in advance. New York uses an assignment slip as follows:

Assignment Slip

Name of Petitioner_____ Date_____

Meeting to be covered_____

Place_____

Time_____

What you are to do_____

Remarks of Petitioner_____

The Local Committee Director keeps a carbon copy of this slip and a close check on its coverage.

Perhaps a special Petition Chart could be drawn up, to show the week to week results, and the petitioners who cover these meetings.

--------oOo--------

309 [1944, Dec.]
BUY A STAMP
SELL A
Help the families of the prisoners in the Minneapolis Labor Case —unjustly imprisoned under the vicious Smith "Gag" Act.
Total Value $5.00
Minneapolis Labor Case Defense Fund
25c
50c
$1.00

EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS OF PROTEST ALREADY RECEIVED BY CRDC

MARCH ON WASHINGTON MOVEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Eighteen members of the Minneapolis Motor Transport and Industrial Workers Union Local 544-CIO, and of the Socialist Workers Party, now serving twelve and sixteen months sentences in the Federal penitentiaries, and

WHEREAS: These 18 are the first to be convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act, the first peace-time statute since 1798 to make the mere expression of opinion a Federal crime, and

WHEREAS: This vicious statute has been condemned by leading civil liberties and labor organizations as contrary to every principle of democracy, and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Supreme Court in an unprecedented action has three times refused to review the convictions of the Minneapolis defendants, even though the Smith "Gag" Act clearly violates the constitutional rights of free speech and free press, and

WHEREAS: The upholding of the Smith "Gag" Act by the continued imprisonment of these Minneapolis victims constitutes a legal precedent, which can certainly be used in the future to suppress any independent opinion by labor and minority group spokesmen,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That we appeal to the President of the U.S. to grant unconditional pardon and immediate release to the eighteen Minneapolis prisoners, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That we recommend that all March on Washington Committees go on record in support of the Civil Rights Defense Committee in its campaign to obtain justice for the Minneapolis prisoners and at the same time abolish the Smith "Gag" Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That copies of this resolution be sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, White House, Washington, D. C., to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, and to the press.

The President of the United States, Feb. 2, 1944
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Local 155, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, with thousands of members, and hundreds who are today in all parts of the world fighting for freedom and democracy, urges you to pardon the 18 Minneapolis trade union leaders who were imprisoned on New Year's Eve.

We are certain that there has been a miscarriage of justice in this case. Some sections of our country, under the influence of hysteria, may commit an act similar to the one in Minneapolis.

However, as President of our country, and commander-in-chief of our armed forces, you must see to it that all forces in our country are unified, especially on the home front.

We therefore urge you to pardon these 18 Minneapolis trade union leaders and permit them to return to their families. By doing so, you will be eradicating a wrong that we are certain will be appreciated by the entire nation.

Louis Nelson, Manager-Secretary
Knitgoods Workers Union, N.Y.

Mr. James T. Farrell, Chairman March 8, 1944
Civil Rights Defense Committee,
160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.

Dear Mr. Farrell:

I have always felt that the defense of civil liberties in the U.S. must be a prime concern of all who are interested in a democratic nation. The Smith "Gag" Act of 1940 is, in my opinion, a direct violation of these liberties and all possible steps should be taken to have it declared unconstitutional.

It is for this reason that I am especially interested in the case of the eighteen defendants convicted in Minneapolis under this act. The refusal of the Supreme Court to hear an appeal from this conviction and the imprisonment of the defendants must be protested.

I am glad to add my personal support to the Committee in its endeavor to seek a reversal of the conviction and a hearing before the Supreme Court to test the validity of this act. I shall be glad to do whatever I can to help further knowledge and information concerning this case.

Robert Parker, Area Director,
National CIO War Relief Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

AND

Motion Pictures

(With Commentary)

OF THE

Minneapolis "Seditious Conspiracy" Trial

Wednesday, May 27th

8:30 P. M.

SALEM CHURCH

Garfield Street off Tonawanda Street

REV. HERMAN HAHN, Chairman

The film features defendants in the trial, officers and members of **Local 544-C.I.O. Motor Transport Workers of America and the Socialist Workers' Party,** who were convicted under the Smith Gag Law of 1940.

SEE---shots of the defendants and their families being fed in their commissary, the Children's X-mas Party, the Defense attorneys preparing the case and many other shots of the daily life of the defendants during the trial.

Trade Unions, Liberals, American Civil Liberties Union, Workers Defense League, etc. have rallied to the support of these men and women.

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Civil Rights Defense Committee